

Marty Nesbitt, Chair of the Obama Foundation

- Thank you for being here today.
- For the first time, a presidential center will be in the heart of an urban community.
- The President and First Lady are proud that the Obama Foundation is developing the Obama Presidential Center in the South Side, a community that they call home.
- The South Side is a historic community with vibrant institutions, like the DuSable Museum, University of Chicago and Museum of Science and Industry, strong faith communities, successful business leaders and important community-based organizations.
- This is also a part of the city that will benefit from the development of the Center. We are committed to supporting efforts to encourage economic growth and engagement will span across the area. Just last week the City announced an ongoing economic growth and engagement effort and we look forward to work closely with them - along with President Zimmer, Aldermen Hairston and Dowell, and Pastor Brazier and Dr. Barrett - on this effort.

- Not only are Jackson Park and Washington Park just a few miles apart, but they were originally conceived of by Frederick Law Olmsted as one park – South Park – joined by the Midway.
- Both Jackson Park and Washington Park had their benefits and challenges – and this was not an easy choice. The President and First Lady saw both sites as exceptional locations, and we wish we didn't have to choose between them.
- With its aesthetics, iconic location, historical relevance from the World's Fair, we believe Jackson Park will attract visitors on a national and global level that will bring significant long term benefits to the South Side.
- And, we believe that locating the President Center at Jackson Park will have the greatest long term impact on the combined communities. Which is really what's most important.
- Although we've chosen Jackson Park, our support of the efforts focusing on economic growth and engagement are not limited to Jackson Park. We see this as a project that will spur development across the South Side – and we are particularly focused on

ensuring Washington Park citizens are a part of this process as it goes forward.

- So, thank you again for being here today. I'm going to invite our other guests to make brief remarks and then we'd be happy to take your questions.
- Mayor Emanuel, I'd like to turn it over to you for brief comments.